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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takashi NORO et al.

Group Art Unit: 1792

Application No.: 10/531,577

Examiner: K. JOLLEY

Filed: April 18, 2005

Docket No.: 123531

For: APPARATUS FOR COATING OUTER PERIPHERAL SURFACE OF PILLAR
STRUCTURE AND METHOD FOR COATING OUTER PERIPHERAL SURFACE OF
PILLAR STRUCTURE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 31, 2009 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 20, 21, 23-25, 27, 28 and 32-40 are pending in this application. Claim 20 is independent. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 20, 21, 23-25, 27, 28 and 32-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,749,970 to Fukuta et al. ("Fukuta") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,728,539 to Gane. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A. Claim 20

Independent claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, "the sheet-like elastic body has a thickness of 1-5 mm and a width of 1-10 mm." The applied references fail to teach or render obvious the recited features of independent claim 20.